

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 1 APRIL 2009

MATCH FUND BUDGET 2008/09

Report by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To recommend that Cabinet approve a grant of £2,000 payable from the 2008/09 Match Fund budget to the Ayrshire Rivers Trust as a contribution to the delivery of the “Salmon in the Classroom” project, including towards the purchase of new digital coolers.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Ayrshire Rivers Trust was established in 2000 with the primary aim of preserving a valuable part of Ayrshire’s natural heritage for the enjoyment of the current and future generations, through the conservation, enhancement and development of the fresh water habitats and the fisheries they support.
- 2.2** “Salmon in the Classroom” is an educational project designed to teach school children about river wildlife and environmental issues. The project is tailored to suit each school and includes one day in the classroom with talks and relevant games (including an aquarium containing salmon eggs being provided for the class) and 2 days of field trips which provide children with an opportunity to take part in outdoor activities and to see local wildlife.
- 2.3** The grant support sought will form part of a cocktail of external funding to deliver the project including in a number of primary schools within East Ayrshire. These schools are: Mauchline, Logan, Drongan, Ochiltree and Hillhead (Kilmarnock).
- 2.4** The total cost of the project for the whole of Ayrshire is £16,010. Full details of the funding package are provided below in 3.1. It should be noted that the Cabinet approved a contribution of £1,200 in March 2008 to support a similar project within East Ayrshire. That project was delivered successfully.

3. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

- 3.1** The total cost of the project for the whole of Ayrshire in 2009 is £16,010. The Trust has secured funding from the William Grant and Sons Education Fund (£4,375), North Ayrshire Council Education Department (£1,600), Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Fund (£1,500), Spirit Aerosystems (£800) and Scottish Natural Heritage (£5,205). Ayrshire Rivers Trust will contribute £530.

- 3.2** Following an assessment of the application the Countryside Ranger with Neighbourhood Services recommends a Match Fund award of £2,000 representing 12.5% of the total project costs.

4. SUSTAINABILITY

- 4.1** A risk assessment has been undertaken as part of the Match Fund assessment process for the application. Satisfactory levels of sustainability have been established.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** The grant award to the project can be met fully from the 2008/09 Match Fund budget. At the time of drafting this report a balance of £4,640 remains within the Match Fund budget. This balance takes into account the grant award of £10,000 approved for Newmilns Snow and Sports Complex, which was approved by Cabinet on Wednesday 4 March 2009, subject to it not being called in by the Governance and Scrutiny Committee.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** There are no policy/legal implications arising from this report.

7. COMMUNITY PLANNING ISSUES

- 7.1** This project will assist in meeting the "Improving the Environment" theme of the Community Plan.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1** The Cabinet is asked to approve an award of £2,000 to the Ayrshire Rivers Trust.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support
4 March 2009

Members wishing further information should contact David Hewet, Senior Policy Adviser on 01563 554608.